

Project Summary

ePolicy is aimed at helping policy makers in making decisions. It is a multi-disciplinary project focused on engineering the policy making life-cycle. For the first time, overall and individual perspectives on the decision process are merged and integrated. The project concentrates on regional planning and promotes the assessment of economic, social and environmental impacts during the policy making process (at both the overall and individual levels). To understand the views of individuals, ePolicy aims to establish likely social impacts through opinion mining of e-participation data extracted from the web. ePolicy heavily relies on visual techniques and tools to provide easy access to data, impacts and political choices for policy makers, citizens and stakeholders.

Project Work Packages

- Policy modelling: components of the regional planning problem and system specification.
- Global policy modelling: optimization and decision support.
- Individual policy modelling: agent based simulation.
- Integration of the global and individual levels: game theory based interaction.
- Opinion mining on e-participation data for deriving social impacts.
- Visual analytics techniques for supporting the policy making process and e-participation.
- System implementation, validation and assessment.
- System demonstration of the regional energy plan
- Dissemination and exploitation

Project Partners

- ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - Università di Bologna (Italy)
- Regione Emilia Romagna (Italy)
- University College Cork (Ireland)
- PPA Energy (UK)
- INESC Porto Instituto De Engenharia De Sistemas E Computadores Do Porto (Portugal)
- ASTER (Italy)
- Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research (Germany)
- Università di Ferrara (Italy)
- The University of Surrey (UK)



<http://www.epolicy-project.eu>



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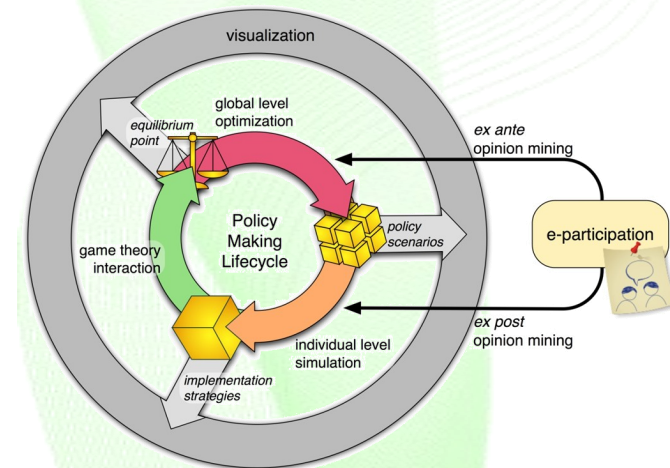
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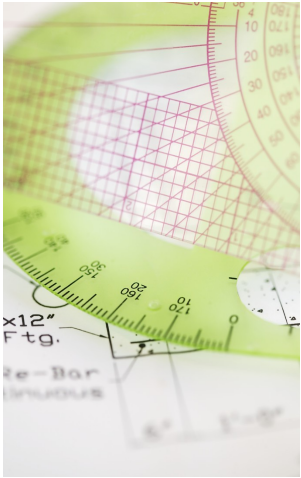
Engineering the Policy Making Life Cycle



Project runs from October 2011 to September 2014



<http://www.epolicy-project.eu>



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<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/>
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/

Expected Societal and Economic Benefits

- Improved prediction of policy impacts leading to more efficient implementation of regional policies and better identification of the benefits and consequences for citizens and business;
- Increased engagement of citizens and wider use of ICT tools resulting in innovative interactions between citizens and government;
- Improved transparency of information on the impact of economic decisions on society;
- Improved capacity to react to the main societal challenges, and increased trust of stakeholders and the public at large in governance.

Objectives of the Project

ePolicy is aimed at providing policy makers with tools that support each step of the decision process. The main objectives are:

- Supporting policy makers in their decision process. This consists of a multi-disciplinary effort aimed at the engineering of a policy making life-cycle;
- Integrating overall and individual perspectives into the decision process;
- Evaluating the economic, social and environmental impacts during policy making (at both the overall and individual levels);
- Establishing likely social impacts through opinion mining of e-participation data;
- Aiding the policy maker, citizens and stakeholders with visualization tools.



Expected Outcomes

- A flexible tool for optimising and supporting policy making decisions at the regional level taking into account objectives, constraints, financial issues and impacts on the environment, the economy and society;
- An agent-based simulation approach at an individual level for identifying the best policy implementation strategies;
- A game theory approach for the interaction between the overall and the individual levels;
- A novel application of visual analytics techniques for supporting policy makers in the decision process and helping citizens and stakeholders in providing a more informed evaluation;
- Techniques for opinion mining of social impacts derived from e-participation data;
- An open source tool which integrates the above-mentioned components and is open, accessible and reusable in other policy contexts;
- Extensive activities aimed at achieving the highest level of dissemination of the results of the project and which prepare for the exploitation of the overall proposed solution and of each of its individual components.

